



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Minutes 12/1/2011

In attendance were:

Steve Andrew
Adam Chapdelaine
Charles Foscett
Paul Olsen
Brian Rehrig
Diane Johnson
Ruth Lewis
Anthony Lionetta
Barbara Thornton

* Denotes those not in attendance

- Meeting Opened: Charlie Foscett opened the meeting and Adam Chapdelaine provided CPC members with their packets of information. Minutes of the CPC's November 17 Meeting were reviewed and approved, as presented.
- Rink Requests: Steve Andrew revisited the Subcommittee's report, which was previously given. The core issue is that revenue from the enterprise fund is not at the level needed to meet with the debt service of planned capital improvements. The subcommittee feels very strongly the rink is being managed very well and the rental rates are at market rate. The rink is used by in-town, as well as out-of-town groups.

The CPC had a discussions around whether the Town should be financial partner sharing in the future debt burden. The rink is viewed as a Town asset. One line of thought was to consider the rink and parks/recreation requests as being from one source and to factor annual Capital Budget appropriations, accordingly. There was another line of thought that rates could be made higher than market, given the convenience it offers to the residents using it.

On the premise that the rink falls under the Town Manager, the CPC feels that the question on whether to use non-enterprise Town funds to help pay for capital needs to be made by him. The CPC postponed making its recommendation to the TM, subject to final budget discussions. The CPC can then make recommendations on the level of funding participation, if the TM's decision is to supplement the enterprise fund.

- Fire Department Requests: Brian Rehrig reported on the Subcommittee's meeting with the Fire Department (and Support Services). A written memo was provided with items organized into three groups, ranging from straight forward and routine, to those more involved. The Subcommittee commented on how impressed they were with frugal practices of the Department. The Subcommittee also noted that the draft plan has two entries for defibrillators one of which can be deleted.

The Subcommittee recommends the Department's requests with the following notations and CPC comments to be considered.

- There was a fair amount of discussion about the Pumper Request, which is being moved from FY 2016 to FY 2013, as well as its increase from \$525k to \$600k, as compared to last year's plan. The proposal is to buy a new pumper, to retire the current spare (1992 Pierce), and to use the current pumper (2001 Pierce) as the "new" spare.

Rust was cited as a key factor for replacement. There is also a new Ladder proposed for FY 2017 in the amount of \$925K.

Both of these requests led to a CPC request to revisit and refresh what the overall and long term vision is for apparatus by the Department. The recent purchase of the Quint was noted. This is a very expensive piece that was approved by the CPC on the basis that it would serve as both a pumper and a ladder and, therefore reduce the size of the fleet. We currently have two first line pumpers, two back up, one ladder and the quint, for a total of six.

The Subcommittee was asked to compare the number of pumpers and ladders prior to the quint purchase to current numbers with the quint. Also, the Fire Department should be requested to state what its plan is for the future, say when the Quint reaches the end of its service life. These are very expensive purchases and the CPC would like assurances that the apparatus progression is well thought out given particularly given the changes to the chief's position that have occurred.

- Relative to the request to raise the amount for design funds from \$320k to \$400k, Charlie Foskett noted that there is a reduction to the building construction request to \$4 million. This provides some breathing room to the plan.
- Relative to the request for a new ambulance, it was noted that this is a revenue generating investment. It is estimated that between \$500k to \$600k is generated each year and provided to the general fund by one ambulance. The intent is to run two with this new replacement.
- Police Department Requests: Brian Rehrig reported on the Subcommittee's meeting with the Police Department. A written memo was provided with items organized into groupings. The following highlights are noted:
 - On Line Reporting System (\$19k). This request was questioned by several committee members. The system has a \$5k annual operating cost which seems excessive. While it might help with processing some insurance requests, it may also lead to more reports and much more follow up work by the Police Department.
 - Security System. The consensus of the CPC is to only do the short term improvements estimated to cost \$7k and wait on the balance of the work to be done as part of the renovation program and until a proper decision is made on what system to be deployed town-wide. There are balances in prior years to cover this cost of \$7k and therefore the request for this year is denied.
 - Body Armor. It was noted that the traditional federal funding that has been helpful in mitigating the cost of this armor is no longer being provided because it mandates that vests be used at all the time and the Arlington Police Union has not yet agreed to this. The result is additional cost to the Town.
 - Universal Forensic Extraction Device. This request is denied.
 - Personal Computer Tablets. This was denied with the Subcommittee suggesting that the request be limited to only a pilot program. It appears that the Police Department will be revising this request, accordingly. The CPC also suggested that this request needs to be brought to ITAC and made thru ITAC.
 - Variable Message Board. This request was denied. The Town already has one and given budget constraints, another is not seen as a priority.
 - Multi Year Radio Replacements. As in prior years, this request was denied based on it being an operating expense item. If there are certain capital improvements, they should be submitted as individual requests and not part of a general program.
- High School and Junior High Buildings: Barbara Thornton brought the CPC's attention to the future need to address both buildings. An overall agreement should be set on rebuilds vs rehabs so that interim expenditures are wisely spent.
- Concussion Reduction Program: Barbara Thornton reported that Steve Harrington, Paul Cahill and Matt Hanley had done what the CPC had suggested to them when that attended the last CPC meeting. An official request form was prepared submitted and provided to CPC members. Barbara reported that on consultation with the School Department, she found that the School Department has already developed a program on this matter. Related expenses are being provided through the School's operating budget and the purchase of protective athletic wear for students may not be considered a qualifying capital expenditure according to some officials who suggest it is more

likely an operating expense.

Tony Lionetta raised the issue of why football helmets are provided by the Town, while other sport protective wear such as hockey are provided by the players. Tony commented that it seems only fair that the same should be done with football. Also, Tony stated that the Town should not be providing this equipment from a liability standpoint and that it should be left to the individual to provide their own.

- Next Meeting: December 15, 2011.

Adjournment